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The Dallas Morning News

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PENTAGON

The truth is out there?

Secret $22M Defense Department program studied reports of UFOs

FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — In the $600 billion annual Defense Department budgets, the $22 million spent on the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program was almost impossible to find.

Which was how the Pentagon wanted it.

For years, the program investigated reports of unidentified flying objects, according to Defense Department officials, interviews with program participants and records obtained by *The New York Times*. It was run by a military intelligence official, Luis Elizondo, on the fifth floor of the Pentagon's C Ring, deep within the building's maze.

Justin T. Gellerson/The New York Times

Luis Elizondo led a Pentagon program investigating UFOs until October, when he resigned in protest of internal opposition.

The Defense Department has never acknowledged the existence of the program, which it says it shut down in 2012. But its backers say that, while the Pentagon ended funding for the effort at that time, the program remains in existence.

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DATA ANALYSIS

Addicted to drugs, women die in jail

Detox treatment delays can be deadly as state fails to track problems

By CARY ASPINWALL and STEPHANIE LAMM
Staff Writers

Alicia Skeats was a tall, blond Texan who believed in second chances: for stray cats, unreliable boyfriends and her own battle with addiction. She took methadone to fight an old heroin habit; her scanty legal troubles involved traffic violations.

The 33-year-old climbed into a cab in Mesquite on April 15, 2014; five days later she was found "unresponsive," dead on the floor of the Dallas County jail. Law enforcement officials labeled her death as "natural causes." Her autopsy said drug withdrawal killed her.

As a record number of women go to jail in Texas, sheriffs are increasingly coping with a special class of inmates: women with minor criminal records but major mental-health and addiction problems. A recent federal survey found that almost a third of women in jails showed symptoms of serious psychological distress, even higher than the rate for men.

See **LABELING** Page 14A

INVESTIGATION | BORDER FENCE

Power abused in land seizures

Feds made unfair deals with owners, bypassed protections, bungled cases

By T. CHRISTIAN MILLER
KIAH COLLIER
and JULIAN AGUILAR
ProPublica
The Texas Tribune

BROWNSVILLE — The land agents started working the border between Texas and Mexico in the spring of 2007. Sometimes they were from the Army Corps of Engineers. Other times the U.S. Border Patrol. They visited tumbledown mobile homes and suburban houses with golf course views.

They delivered blunt news to ranchers and farmers, sheet metal workers and university professors, auto mechanics and wealthy developers: The federal government was going to build a fence to keep out drug smugglers and immigrants crossing into the U.S. illegally, they told property owners. The structure was going to cut across their land.

The government would make a fair offer to buy property, the agents explained. That was the law. But if the owners didn't want to sell, U.S. attorneys would file a lawsuit to seize it. One way or the other, the government would get the land. That, too, was the law.

See **PROPER** Page 18A

MEXICO

By end of 2017, more than 27,000 will have died in drug violence

Fernando Brito/The Associated Press

On May 15 in Culiacán, Mexico, onlookers took photos of slain journalist Javier Valdez, who reported on drug trafficking. The explosion of violence is a result of several factors, including a strategy to target the top heads of cartels, generating a dangerous power vacuum.

The bloodiest year yet

By ALFREDO CORCHADO
Staff Writer
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MEXICO CITY — This year is on track to be the deadliest in Mexico since the government began releasing crime records 20 years ago.

By the end of 2017, the government projects, more than 27,000 people will have died in violence fueled by warfare among cartels, political corruption and an increase in U.S. demand for drugs like heroin, meth and cocaine, much of it smuggled through legal entry points along the Texas border.

Security has deteriorated so badly that the government on Friday formalized the use of soldiers on the streets, generating angry response from critics. That includes the United Nations and Amnesty International, which fear the move will lead to more violence and human rights abuses.

No longer are killings limited to states such as Chihuahua, Tamaulipas, Durango, Sinaloa and Jalisco. Twenty-seven of Mexico's 32 states have reported drug violence this year, including areas that are popular tourist destinations for North Texans such as Cabo San Lucas and Cancún.

"It's not only that we don't have an answer for the violence, but when you look at our current strategy, if you can even call it that, the violence has actually grown," said Catalina Pérez Correa, a law professor and specialist on drug violence at CIDE, a university in Mexico

See **CARTEL** Page 16A

NATION

Fire threatens enclave

The largest of the Southern California wildfires burned through the outskirts of the wealthy enclave of Montecito, home to many Hollywood stars. **8A**

Word ban at CDC

Trump administration officials are forbidding officials at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from using a list of seven words or phrases, including "fetus," in any official documents for next year's budget. **9A**

Also: President Donald Trump on Saturday defended the GOP tax cut as a good deal for the middle class while suggesting it could lead to explosive economic growth. **8A**

WORLD

Prince buys king of homes

Two years ago, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman purchased the Chateau Louis XIV, which *Fortune* magazine called "the world's most expensive home," for $300 million. **12A**

SPORTSDAY

Five new fields of dreams

On Tuesday, the Texas Rangers and others will open a five-field complex to bring baseball to an underserved community. **1C**

TRAVEL

Glimpses of the past

A visit to the Four Corners region opens windows into the past. **1K**

POINTS

How the money flows

Russia business expert Ruth May connects news stories to campaign finance records to map a ring of corruption around President Trump. **1P**

BUSINESS

Revenge of the women

Bobby Goldstein, producer of the TV series *Cheaters,* is pitching a new book to networks. In this one, women not only get revenge, they take over the world. **1D**

ARTS & LIFE

The year's local art scene

Looking back at the 25 highs, lows and uh-ohs in local arts. **1E**

IN TODAY'S PAPER

See the year's best photos

Home-delivery subscribers will find the glossy magazine *Photos of the Year* in today's newspaper, with memorable images of 2017 from *The Dallas Morning News* photography staff.

AM clouds, PM sun

H 64
L 43

Metro, back page

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